



# *Milwaukee County*

Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas, 18th District

Vice-Chair, Finance & Audit Committee

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## **GOVERNOR'S DECISION TO SUSPEND APPRENTICE RULES MEANS WISCONSIN IS CLOSED FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

**Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas released the following statement regarding the importance of apprenticeship programs in government contracts:

“The Governor is making a big mistake by suspending apprentice rules as part of state construction contracts. His Executive Order, issued quietly on March 9, means State contractors are no longer required to invest in local workers through Wisconsin’s apprenticeship program.

“Governor Walker is missing the benefit of apprenticeship programs. These programs are a key step in revitalizing our economy, providing individuals with valuable work experience and helping them develop marketable skills. Walker’s order targets small businesses that provide job training and opportunities. This is counterproductive to job creation and economic growth.

“*The Business Journal’s* Central City Business Awards, sponsored by the Greater Milwaukee Committee, recently honored entrepreneurs who positively impact the central city. So, why would Governor Walker want to make it harder for small businesses to develop and grow? This bad policy will compound the unemployment situation in the State and in the African-American community.

“In the Marquette Interchange project, former Governor Doyle achieved 22% minority labor and 18% Disadvantaged Business Enterprise participation. Governor Walker is reversing this progress and stifling economic growth and job creation. Instead of being open for business, Wisconsin is closed to small businesses, which are an economic driver for a growing economy.”

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